

REMARKS

By this paper Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12-14, 19, 20, and 22-24 and amended Claims 2, 6-9, 11, 15-18, 21, and 25-28. Reconsideration and further examination of this application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the paragraph 4 of the pending Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 2, 8-9, 11, 17-18, 21, and 27-28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended Claims 2, 8, 11, 17, 21, and 27 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Specifically, Claims 2 and 8 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of Claim 1, Claims 11 and 17 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of Claim 10, and Claims 21 and 27 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of Claim 20. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 8, 11, 17, 21, and 27 are now independent claims and are in condition for allowance.

In addition, Claims 6, 7, and 9 have been amended to depend from either Claim 2 or Claim 8. Since Claims 2 and 8 have been amended for allowance, it is submitted that Claims 6, 7, and 9 also are allowable. Claims 15, 16, and 18 have been amended to depend from either Claims 11 or 17, and Claims 25, 26, and 28 have been amended to depend from either Claims 21 or 27. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that

U.S.S.N. 09/835,209
Johnson, B.
Amendment and Request for Reconsideration

Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18, 25, 26, and 28 depend from allowable claims and are therefore also allowable.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-16, 19-20, and 22-26 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0032626 to DeWolf et al. (DeWolf) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0019796 to LeGraw (LeGraw). By this paper, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12-14, 19, 20, and 22-24. Of the remaining claims rejected under Section 103, Applicant has amended Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18, 25, 26, and 28 as noted above, so that they depend from allowable claims and therefore are themselves allowable. Thus, Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejections of these seven claims are now moot, and request withdrawal of the rejection for Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18, 25, 26, and 28 as amended.

CONCLUSION

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 6-9, 11, 15-18, 21, and 25-28 are all in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is solicited.

/

/

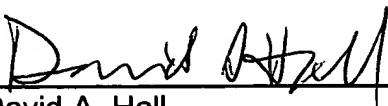
/

U.S.S.N. 09/835,209
Johnson, B.
Amendment and Request for Reconsideration

Any fees that may be due in connection with the filing of this paper, or during the entire pendency of this application, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1213.

Respectfully submitted,
Heller Ehrman LLP

By:



David A. Hall
Registration No. 32,233

Attorney Docket No.: 26893-6085

Address all correspondence to:

David A. Hall
Heller Ehrman LLP
4350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, California 92122-1246
Telephone: (858) 450-8400
Facsimile: (858) 450-8499
EMAIL: dhall@hewm.com

SD 767102 v3 (26893.6085)